

CLAIMS

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1. A system for transmitting medical type data obtained from a person to a dedicated web site for analysis, comprising:

a computer system accessible to said person, said computer system having at least one simple port for receiving data in a prescribed form;

10 signal means for obtaining data from said person;

transform means for transforming said data into said prescribed form;

a circuit connection for connecting said transformed data to said simple port; and

15 said computer system having web site means for connecting through the internet to a dedicated web site.

2. The system as described in claim 1, wherein said computer system comprises a PC having a keyboard port, and said circuit connection connects said transformed data to said keyboard port.

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3. The system as described in claim 1, wherein said computer system comprises a PC having a mouse port, and said circuit connection has means for connecting said transformed data to said mouse port.

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4. The system as described in claim 1, wherein the person has an implanted medical device, said signal means comprises a pacemaker programmer for receiving cardiac signals from the implanted medical device, and said transform means comprises means for transforming said cardiac signals into data acceptable for said simple port.

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5. The system as described in claim 1, wherein said computer system has a keyboard and a keyboard port, and said circuit connection comprises a

switch for providing a switchable connection between said transform means or said keyboard to said keyboard port.

6. The system as described in claim 1, wherein said computer system has a mouse and a mouse port, and said circuit connection comprises a switch for providing a switchable connection between said transform means and said mouse port.

7. The system as described in claim 1, wherein said person has an implanted medical device with means for receiving command signals, said computer system comprising a PC having a bi-directional simple port, said transform means comprising a bi-directional circuit, said circuit connection having means for providing bi-directional data transmission between said transform means and said port, said signal means having re-program means for transmitting a command signal to said implanted medical device, and wherein said computer system PC has loaded software for directing a command signal to be passed through said port for transmission to said implanted medical device.

8. The system as described in claim 1, wherein said signal means comprises an implanted device having a telemetry system for transmitting signals, and a programmer device having receiving means for receiving said transmitted signals.

9. The system as described in claim 1, wherein said computer system has a keyboard and a computer with a keyboard port, said transform means comprises means for transforming signal data from said signal means into data adapted to be received by said keyboard port, and said computer has software means for processing data received through said keyboard port.

10. The system as described in claim 1, wherein said computer system has a mouse and a computer with a mouse port, said transform means comprises

means for transforming signal data from said signal means into data adapted to be received by said mouse port, and said computer has software means for processing data received through said mouse port.

- 5 11. A system for obtaining and transferring medical data from a patient into a local computer having a simple port for receiving data of a predetermined form, comprising:

means for obtaining medical data from a patient;

10 interface means for transforming said data into said predetermined form; and

a connection circuit for connecting said transformed data into said simple port.

12. The system as described in claim 11, further comprising a dedicated web site at a remote computer, each of said local computer and said remote computer being connected to the internet, and said local computer having software for transmitting said transformed data over the internet to said remote computer and for receiving messages back from said remote computer.

13. The system as described in claim 11, wherein local computer has a keyboard port, said interface means comprises means for transforming said data into keyboard data, and said connection circuit is connected between said interface means and said keyboard port.

14. The system as described in claim 11, wherein said local computer has a mouse port, said interface means comprises means for transforming said data into mouse data, and said connection circuit is connected between said interface means and said mouse port.

15. A method of transmitting data between a source of patient data and a web site available on the internet, comprising:

providing the patient with a patient computer that has at least one simple bi-directional port, and logging on from said patient computer to a dedicated web site;

transforming said patient data to the prescribed form for said simple port; and

connecting said transformed data to the computer through said simple port; and

transmitting said data from said patient computer to said website over the internet.

16. The method as described in claim 15, wherein said simple bi-directional port is a keyboard port, and further comprising:

transforming said data in a portable interface unit, and switching said interface unit into connection with said keyboard port.

17. The method as described in claim 15, wherein said patient has an implanted medical device, and comprising:

telemetry data from said implanted device and receiving said data in an external T/R device, connecting said data from said T/R device to said portable interface unit, and logging on to said web site from said patient computer.

18. The method as described in claim 17, comprising processing said data at said web site, and sending reply information to said patient computer from said web site.

19. The method as described in claim 18, comprising sending a command signal from said web site, and transmitting said command signal through said port, said interface device and said T/R device to said implanted medical device.

20. The method as described in claim 18, wherein said simple port is a keyboard port, and providing a keyboard for inputting keyboard data through said keyboard port, and further comprising switching said interface device into connection with said keyboard port to provide data from said interface device to said computer, and alternately switching said keyboard into connection with said keyboard port to provide keyboard data to said computer.

21. The method as described in claim 20, wherein said simple port is a mouse port, and providing a mouse for inputting mouse data through said mouse port, and further comprising switching said interface device into connection with said mouse port to provide data from said interface device to said computer, and alternately switching said mouse into connection with said mouse port to provide mouse data to said computer.

22. The method as described in claim 16, comprising alternately connecting transformed data and keyboard data through said port, and transmitting said transformed data and keyboard data to said web site.

23. The method as described in claim 15, comprising periodically transforming data from said source, connecting said transformed data to said computer, and storing said data; determining when to transmit said stored data to said web site; and transmitting said stored data to said web site upon determining to do so.

24. The method as described in claim 15, comprising positioning a medical device as a source for obtaining medical data from the patient, transferring said data to a portable interface unit, and transforming said data in said interface unit.

25. The method as described in claim 24, comprising obtaining cardiac signal data from an implanted pacemaker type device, telemetering said data

to a pacemaker programmer type device, and connecting said telemetered data through said portable interface unit to said patient computer.

26. The method as described in claim 25, comprising analyzing the data that has been transmitted to said web site, and sending a reply message from said web site to said patient computer.

27. The method as described in claim 26, wherein said sending comprises sending an instruction for use in changing an operation of said implanted device.

28. The method as described in claim 15, wherein said patient computer has two of said simple ports, selecting one of said simple ports, and connecting said transformed data to said selected port.

29. The method as described in claim 24, comprising:
providing an alternate data source that outputs data with said prescribed form,
providing a switch with a plurality of inputs and at least one output, connecting said switch output to a selected computer port, and selectively switching one of said interface unit and said alternate data source to said switch output for connection to said computer.

30. The method as described in claim 29, wherein said computer has a keyboard port, and comprising providing a keyboard as said alternate data source.

31. A method of providing for transmission of medical data from a patient to an internet web site, said method being easily carried out wherever and whenever the patient has access to a computer having at least one simple port, comprising:

using a signal source device for obtaining medical data from the patient;

providing a portable data transforming device for transforming the
obtained medical data into a prescribed form for entry into said simple port;
providing a dedicated web site available over the internet;
using said computer to log onto said web site;

- 5 transferring medical data from said signal source to said portable data
transforming device, and transforming said data in said portable device;
 connecting said transformed data through said simple port; and
sending said data over the internet to the dedicated web site.

- 10 32. The method as described in claim 31, wherein said patient has an
implanted pacemaker type device, comprising collecting cardiac data with
said pacemaker type device and downloading said data to a transmit/receive
device, and transferring said data to said portable data transforming device.

- 15 33. The method as described in claim 31, comprising providing a signal
pickup device and using said signal pickup device to obtain said patient
medical data, and connecting said signal pickup device to said portable data
transforming device.

- 20 34. The method as described in claim 31, wherein said computer has a
keyboard port, and comprising connecting said transformed data to and
through said keyboard port.

- 25 35. The method as described in claim 31, wherein said computer has a
mouse port, and comprising connecting said transformed data to and through
said mouse port.

- 30 36. The method as described in claim 31, comprising receiving and
analysing said data at said web site, and transmitting reply data to a said
computer to which the patient has access.

37. The method as described in claim 31, comprising transmitting data from said patient computer to said web site a plurality of times, storing said transmissions of data, analyzing said data each time another transmission has been received at the web site, and sending a reply message as a function of said analyzing.

38. The method as described in claim 31, comprising using an EKG device to obtain a patient EKG, and transferring said patient EKG to said portable data transforming device.

39. The method as described in claim 31, comprising inputting keyboard data into said computer, and transmitting both said data and said keyboard data over the internet to said dedicated web site.

40. A portable battery powered device for transferring data between a patient's implanted pacemaker and a computer, the computer having at least one simple port, the pacemaker having a telemetry system for sending signals containing encoded data to an external receiver, said portable device comprising:

a receiver for receiving data signals from said pacemaker;
decoding means for decoding data from said signals;
transform means for transforming said data into a form adapted for entry through said simple port; and

download means operable by a patient for transferring said transformed data to said port, said download means having an input/output port, whereby said data can be downloaded into a computer by said patient when said input/output port is connected to said computer simple port.

41. The device as described in claim 40, comprising initiate means for initiating transmission of data signals from said implanted pacemaker.

42. The device as described in claim 41, comprising selection means for selecting alternately storing said transformed data or downloading it to the computer.

5 43. The device as described in claim 41, comprising selection means for providing a plurality of options for receiving data and transmitting data.

10 44. The device as described in claim 43, comprising control means for enabling receipt of a control signal from said computer and for transmitting said control signal to the pacemaker.

15 45. The device as described in claim 41, comprising a plurality of input ports, and selection means for selecting one of said input ports for interconnection of said device to an external source of data.

46. The device as described in claim 41, wherein said transform means comprises algorithm means for carrying out said transforming.

20 47. The device as described in claim 46, wherein said algorithm means comprises keyboard means for transforming said data into a form adapted for entry through a computer keyboard port.

25 48. The device as described in claim 46, wherein said algorithm means comprises mouse means for transforming said data into a form adapted for entry through a computer mouse port.